

Lt. Col. (Dr.) Keith Brandt
 Flight surgeon
 NASA medical operations branch,
 Houston's Johnson Space Center
 Years in the Air Force: 17
 Hometown: New Castle, Ind.
 Number of aerospace medicine
 specialists (48A): 190

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Fulfilling a childhood dream

Most people have certain expectations when they think about doctors. But one Air Force flight surgeon is happy to break that mold.

"I just couldn't stand to be locked away in an office all day," Lt. Col. (Dr.) Keith Brandt said. "I thrive on variety and, let's face it, you can't get more variety than being in the Air Force."

Currently serving as a flight surgeon in NASA's medical operations branch, he is one of seven Air Force flight surgeons at Houston's Johnson Space Center.

Not only does he work as a "regular doctor," he also works life support and helps determine launching and landing criteria. He even helps NASA in vehicle design, not to mention his work with Russian cosmonauts in their own country.

Colonel Brandt is board certified in family practice medicine, aerospace medicine and general preventive medicine. He finds his unique position gratifying.

"The most rewarding part of this current job is the people I get to work with, not only my fellow flight surgeons, but definitely the astronauts, too," the 17-year veteran said.

Serving as a NASA flight surgeon is the fulfillment of a childhood dream.

"I grew up with 'Star Trek,' 'Star Wars' and the Apollo and moon missions," he said. "I am just naturally drawn to the excitement of this program. It has been a lifelong love affair of mine."

*Staff Sgt. Matthew Rosine
 photo by Tech. Sgt. Larry Simmons*